



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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President Nez approves \$1.3 million for COVID-19 mitigation efforts for Chinle nursing home

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution CJA-04-21, approving over \$1.3 million from the Navajo Nation’s Unreserved, Undesignated Fund Balance for costs incurred during the COVID-19 pandemic for assisted living care, personal protective equipment, cleaning supplies, transportation, and 24-hour monitoring of elderly residents at the Navajoland Nursing Home, Inc., located in Chinle, Ariz. The resolution includes a provision that requires the funds to be reimbursed to the Navajo Nation upon receipt of additional federal COVID-19 relief funds.

“Our administration thanks the Navajoland Nursing Home, Inc. board and employees for going above and beyond to care for our Navajo elders during this pandemic. The staff were called on to perform extraordinary duties when the COVID-19 outbreak began and escalated and they did their very best to protect our grandmothers and grandfathers with the resources they had available. The pandemic has magnified the need for more nursing homes on the Navajo Nation and for more at-home care services for our elders and that’s an issue that we need to address soon. I thank the nursing home employees, the 24th Navajo Nation Council, and Chinle Chapter for their support as well,” said President Nez.

As Vice President of the Navajo Nation at the time, President Nez also supported funding in the amount of \$4.2 million in 2018 to help with the construction of the nursing home, which consists of beds, physical therapy and recreational areas, administrative offices, visitation rooms, fully equipped bathrooms, a courtyard, and a cafeteria.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the nursing home employees provided care for elders and also expanded their services to provide nursing care for Navajo elders who received medical care off the Navajo Nation and were required to quarantine when they returned.

“As tough and challenging as this pandemic has been for our Navajo people, we hear the resilient stories of our health care workers, nursing home workers, and many first responders who go above and beyond the call of duty to help our people. I commend the staff and board at the Chinle nursing home for being on the frontlines to help keep our elders safe and healthy. Our

administration will work with our federal partners on the reimbursement process for applicable costs that were incurred,” said Vice President Lizer.

The legislation for the funding was introduced by Council Delegate Edison Wauneka and approved by the 24th Navajo Nation Council by a vote of 22-0 on Jan. 27, 2021.

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